During the year 2000-2001, Government of Karnataka procured following quantity of potato through Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation under State sponsored Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) 117 Rs. 360 per quintal:

(i) Quantity procured: 115183.20 qtls.

(ii) Area of Operation: Dharwad, Belgaum and Kolar.

(iii) Period of Operation of the Scheme: November 2000 to January 2001.

NAFED provided marketing support to the State Government for arranging disposal of procured stock of potato under MIS through the network of its branches.

Post harvest loss of horticulture produce

2756. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of horticulture produce gets damaged and lost due to delays after harvesting and damage in transport and storage;

(b) if so, the magnitude of such losses; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Although no scientific study has been carried out to assess the post harvest handling losses of horticulture produce, the Working Group on horticulture development for Tenth Five Year Plan has reported the losses of 20 to 40 percent at different stages of grading, packing, storage, transport and finally marketing. Losses also depend upon cultivars and season of harvesting.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing programmes, for reduction of post harvest losses, through the National Horticulture Board (NHB) which include:—

(i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Post-Harvest Management; and

(ii) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/ Modernisation of Cold Storage and Storages for Horticulture Produce.

So far, 52 number of refrigerated transport vehicles, 159 grading/ packing centers, 75 pre-cooling units and 424 cold storages have been assisted under the programmes/schemes implemented by NHB.

In addition to above, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an organization under the Ministry of Commerce, has initiated the following programmes to reduce post harvest losses:—

(i) Integrated Programmes for pre and post harvest management;

(ii) Preparation of post harvest manuals in regional languages to educate farmers/growers;

(iii) Promotion of pack house concept in the production areas including cold chain linkage right from farm to the consumer; and

(iv) Vapour heat treatment experiment to control fruit flies in horticulture produce on pilot scale.

Strengthening the infrastructure for foodgrains

2757. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any strategy, backed up with adequate investment, to strengthen infrastructure relating to foodgrains, horticulture, floriculture, meat poultry, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how these aspects are proposed to be addressed in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Scheme are being implemented by the Government of India for development of infrastructure and input availability for agriculture and allied activities including foodgrains, horticulture crops, floriculture and animal husbandry. Several major initiatives have been taken in the recent past to